[Mr. R. Rama Varier.]

Marketing of hand-loom products.—The hand-loom weaving industry is passing through great difficulties, mostly on account of the disability in marketing the goods. There are also many handicaps under which the weavers suffer on account of lack of financial resources In order to study the conditions of marketing and suggest methods calculated to bring about a more favourable sale of the wares, based on a knowledge of the conditions obtaining both in the industry and in the market, an Officer was appointed, who visited the most important producing and consuming centres, surveyed the possibilities of the industry and of the marketing and submitted a report of his investigations. The report is at present under the consideration of Government. The abnormal rise in the price of yarn consequent on its export from the State through the agency of profiteering middlemen has been found to be one of the most serious obstacles to the development of hand-loom weaving industry in the State. With a view to adopt a scheme of price control based on the prevailing mill rates, Government propose to prevent the export of yarn from the State until the restoration of normal conditions in the local and foreign markets.

UPLIFT OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES.

33. In consonance with the policy of Government, an increased provision has been made in the next year's budget for the Uplift of Backward Communities and steps have been taken to carry out more intensive amelioration among the backward classes.

MEDICAL.

34. The terrible effects of tuberculosis on the health of the people have become a matter of very serious concern to the Government. A Tuberculosis Hospital is now under construction and is proposed to be opened in Thulam 1117 with an accommodation, for the present, for 50 patients, at Nagercoil, which has a very salubrious climate specially suited for the treatment of this disease.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

35. I shall now pass on to capital expenditure. A sum of Rs 44·20 lakhs has been included under this head in the budget estimates for the next year. Apart from the necessity for minimising expenditure in general, the anticipations have been pitched a little low because these works are expected to make only slower progress than in previous years on account of the difficulty in getting materials and machinery from abroad. Details of the works will be found explained in the Budget Memorandum. I shall just refer to the salient features of the more important works.

COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT.

36. The budget provision for this scheme for the next year is Rs 0·92 of a lakh which will raise the total capital outlay thereon to Rs 12·08

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lakhs at the end of next year. I have already explained to the House how, with the use of charcoal gas for propelling the buses and with the opening of more lines next year, the scheme is expected to bring in substantial receipts.

Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory.

37. With a provision of Rs 1·34 lakhs for Ceramic works in the budget for the ensuing year, the total capital expenditure on the Factory as at the end of next year would be Rs 11·06 lakhs. The proposal to increase the productive capacity of the Factory with a view to enable the large orders already in hand being satisfactorily met, has already been adverted to. When the Factory is working in full swing, it is expected to yield a good profit.

Town Improvement Schemes.

38. The construction of the buildings opposite to the Government Museum for accommodating Public Offices has been completed during the year. The buildings have already been occupied and as a result there is a saving of over Rs 10,000 per year under rents on buildings hired for Public Offices.

A provision of Rs 1·53 lakhs has been included in the next year's budget for further improvements.

Water Supply Schemes.

39. This includes works for the supply of good drinking water to Shencottah, Nagercoil, Kuttanad, Sherthallai, Muttam, Kottayam, Kumarakam and Bhoothapandy as also for the extension of the existing Water-Supply at Trivandrum and Alleppey. As the members are well aware, the Alleppey Water Works have just been completed and water begun to be supplied. There remain only a few minor items of work for which provision has been made in the next year's budget. The water supply schemes for Shencottah and Nagercoil are nearing completion and it is hoped that before the close of the next year these two places will also be served with good drinking water. The other works are proposed to be taken up next year.

The maintenance of the Alleppey and Shencottah Water Works has to be undertaken by the Municipalities of those places in accordance with the agreement entered into between the Municipalities and Government.

Trivandrum Electric Supply.

40. The capital expenditure on this undertaking at the end of the current year is expected to stand at Rs 11·38 lakhs. There has been satisfactory progress both in generation and revenue during the

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